

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 OPIC-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 INT-05 ACDA-07 DODE-00

PM-04 PRS-01 /068 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:EFFUGIT:LAR

APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN

----- 012100

R 011743Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, AO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD

REF: A) STATE 78543; B) LONDON 05288

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY COPPER COMMODITY ANALYST IN NEW YORK WHO RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION IN APRIL 22

LETTER FROM TANGANYIKA CONCESSION, BRITISH HOLDING COMPANY WHICH OWNS THE BENGUELA RAILROAD (CFB), THAT THE REBUILDING OF BRIDGES ON THE CFB WILL NOT BE COMPLETED

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UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 1976. LETTER STATES ONLY TWO

BRIDGES ARE DESTROYED: LUMEJE (100 KM EAST OF LUSO) AND LUAU ON THE ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN FRONTIER. WORK WAS "THREE-FOURTHS COMPLETED" ON THE LUMEJE BRIDGE BUT HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY HALTED BY UNUSUALLY HEAVY RAINS. CFB HOPES TO HAVE THE LUMEJE BRIDGE REPAIRS COMPLETED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS AFTER THE RAIN SWOLLEN LUMEJE RIVER SUBSIDES. LUAU BRIDGE IS SURROUNDED BY MINEFIELD AND REPAIR WORK CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL MINES ARE CLEARED AWAY. LETTER DID NOT STATE

ON WHICH SIDE OF FRONTIER THE MINES WERE LOCATED. IN ADDITION THE DROPPED LUAU SPAN IS RUSTING IN SWOLLEN CASSAI RIVER. THUS REPAIRS WILL NECESSITATE FURTHER DELAYS TO AWAIT: (A) THE RIVER SUBSIDING, (B) THE MINEFIELD'S

REMOVAL, (C) HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT REACHING THE LUAU BRIDGE AFTER FIRST CROSSING THE REPAIRED LUMEJE BRIDGE AND (D) EXAMINATION AND REPLACEMENT OF RUSTED OR DESTROYED PORTIONS OF THE BRIDGE.

2. CFB HOPES TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN SEPTEMBER AT OVER 50 PER CENT OF THEIR PREVIOUS CAPACITY, WHICH WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 700,000 SHORT TONS OF COPPER PER YEAR.

3. TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS DID NOT ADDRESS THE CUANZA RIVER BRIDGE (LOCATED APPROXIMATELY EQUIDISTANT BETWEEN NOVA LISBOA AND LUSO) WHICH SEVERAL REPORTS HAVE INSISTED WAS ALSO DAMAGED. THE LACK OF MENTION OF THE CUANZA BRIDGE COUPLED WITH THE REPORT THAT WORK WAS GOING ON AT LUMEJE, EAST OF THE CUANZA, INDICATES THE CUANZA BRIDGE MAY NOT BE DESTROYED. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE CONFLICTING REPORTS WE REMAIN INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY RECEIVE ON THIS BRIDGE OR THE RAILLINE ITSELF, AND PARTICULARLY REPORTS OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY ALONG IT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** STATUS OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD  
**TAGS:** ETRN, ECRE, AO, CG  
**To:** KINSHASA MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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